

Some say this bill on the floor today makes it more flexible because you can buy equipment, but we already have programs to buy equipment for police departments. Indeed what the police departments need most right now are more police.

Somerset Maugham once wrote that he "conducted his actions in regard to the police officer standing on the corner." These officers are getting on our streets and our corners now. One hundred and seventy new officers in West Virginia alone testified to the fact that we want to keep that intact and not vote for this bill today.

GEORGIA POLICE WELCOME BLOCK GRANT FUNDS TO FIGHT CRIME

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute).

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of giving local law enforcement the power to do what they think is best. That is what my sheriff, Charlie Webster of Richmond County, GA, wants.

The bill we are debating gives State and local governments the funds to fight crime as they see fit. That is what all 19 of my sheriffs want. The other side will argue for strings to be attached. They will argue that we here in Washington truly know best how to fight crime. What a laugh. Look at the District of Columbia.

I ask the people back home to listen closely to these arguments. One side wants to give you the power to fight crime; one side will tell you that they know what is best for you. It is as if they did not hear you at all last November. Local law enforcement officers know what they need to do to fight crime, and they absolutely do not need bureaucrats here in Washington telling them how to do their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support local law enforcement by supporting our crime bill.

IN AMERICA THE PEOPLE RULE, NOT THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after hard knocks on their door, a Chicago woman really smelled the coffee. Three IRS agents demanded—yes, demanded to see her daughter. She said, "My daughter is not home."

They demanded to see her daughter. She was frightened, she called her husband, her husband called the accountant, and the accountant called the IRS. They said she did not report her interest on her savings. The IRS said it was a gift. They said, "We don't believe you. Prove it." They said, "I want to see your daughter."

Their daughter was in second grade at the local elementary school.

The IRS demanded: They did not ask. They said, "Prove it. We don't believe you." They demanded.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to cosponsor H.R. 390. The taxpayer is innocent until proven guilty, and it is time that Congress started making some demands on the IRS. The people are boss in America, not the IRS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). The Chair wishes to admonish the people watching our proceedings from the gallery that no demonstration is appropriate.

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR CRIME LEGISLATION

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Academy Award nominations were announced.

And it made me think, we need a new category for the so-called anticrime proposals we're debating.

We could call it, best performance by Members of Congress in pretending to make our communities safer.

Sure, nominees would be hard to choose.

It could be trampling on the fourth amendment to make illegal searches easier.

Or greatly increasing the chances of executing an innocent person.

Or talking of repealing the Brady bill and assault weapons ban.

And finally, this week, passing legislation that will very likely take police officers off the streets of America.

In fact, too many of our colleagues could win an award for saying yes to the gun lobby, but saying no to our Constitution.

So, we might have to wait until March 27 to see who wins an Oscar.

But we know today who loses because of these fake, ineffective crime proposals.

Our children lose. Our families lose. Our constituents lose. Every American who wants a safer neighborhood loses—in a category that is far more important than favorite movies.

CRIME LEGISLATION IS FOR THE PEOPLE, NOT FOR CRIMINALS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, last year the guardians of the old order rammed through the criminal's crime bill. It was a piece of legislation more concerned about the rights of violent criminals than the rights of law-abiding Americans. It was a bill that offered violent criminals and repeat offenders endless appeals and technical loopholes. It was a bill full of phony

prevention programs and wasteful pork. It was a bill that said violent criminals are not bad people; instead they are really just misunderstood, and if we all give them a group hug, maybe they will mend their evil ways.

Mr. Speaker, criminals do not need a crime bill. The American people do. Crime has taken over America's streets, and Americans want to take those streets back. So we in the new majority offer a citizens crime bill, a bill that actually makes criminals pay for their crimes. We want to put a stop to endless appeals for death row inmates. We have had enough of repeat criminals going free due to legal technicalities.

Mr. Speaker, the American people demand a real crime bill, and in this Contract With America they will get it.

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THE REPUBLICAN CRIME PACKAGE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Crime and punishment, it is all the rage here in Washington. But if we are going to build a strong foundation to defeat crime in America and turn back this tide, it is going to take a little site prep like any other building of a foundation.

This grand new monument to the Republican crime control effort will be a tower of concrete on a foundation of sand if we pass this section of the crime bill. It is a single-minded rush. It ignores other needs.

Drugs in the schools? Build prisons. At-risk and abused kids? Build prisons. Slow response time? Not enough cops? Build prisons.

Let us not rush to build symbolic monuments. It will take more to turn back the tide of crime in America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). The Chair advises Members that the leadership has indicated we will have 10 Members on each side for 1-minute speeches this morning.

MORE ON THE CRIME PACKAGE

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today we are continuing debate on the crime control package, one of the items in our Contract With America. This package is unique because it actively will work to prevent, catch, and convict violent criminals that roam our neighborhoods. No more hug-a-thug bills or phony prevention programs like midnight basketball. No more endless appeals or technical loopholes in the courtroom.